

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5 PARK LANE
HIGHLAND, NY 12528
March 25, 2026

1. **OPENING MEETING** - The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 9:09 AM. Directors Present: K. Nolan, J. Delaune, J. Kovacs, F. Wilklow, S. Van Nostrand. Directors Absent: B. Davenport. SWCD Staff in attendance: J. Wedemeyer - Executive Director, C. Hensdorf – District Technician, A. Sandor – District Technician, M. Garfinkle – Ashokan Basin Project Manager.

2. **WORK REPORTS**

Written staff reports were mailed and emailed to Board Members prior to the meeting for review (attached to the filed minutes).

a) **SWCD**

J. Wedemeyer - (see attached staff report)

AEM – Closing out AEM and CRF Round 6.

Fino Farms did not choose to pursue agricultural conservation easement at this time.

Round 27 Ag Non Point Source grants: site showing for two agricultural chemical mixing facilities.

Received bids for CRF Round 7 which will be opened later in meeting.

Outreach with Boy Scouts went well.

J. Delaune and JW put together Agricultural Protection Support Program for the County to support conservation easements, we were informed Ulster County will be going in a different direction. Remaining ARPA funds from County of \$79,000 will be utilized for proposed irrigation and fuel storage projects to supplement AEM funds.

C. Hensdorf – (See attached staff report.)

Closing out AEM and CRF Round 6.

Row Mulcher went out for first time this year, first piece of equipment to go out through Rental Program so far. Expect more interest in Row Mulcher this year.

We will not be renting No-Till Drill to farmer from Columbia County discussed in last meeting, equipment will not be rented to those outside of Ulster County.

Will be assisting AWSMP office in plantings this field season.

A. Sandor – (See attached report).

Seedling sale closed March 23rd, working with nursery on our order.

Working on getting clearances for LincPass, should be fingerprinted tomorrow.

Discussion of committees such as Non-Toxic Pest Management committee and committee's Catskill Mountain Railroad 2026 waiver application denial decision.

b) **AWSMP**
M. Garfinkle – (see attached report)

60 percent design for stream restoration projects, permit application submitted yesterday for Broad Street Hollow. Will be submitting for permitting soon for Hollow Tree Brook.

New GPS units for assessment staff received and are ready for 2026 field season.

Field season has begun with post-project monitoring, drone flights, etc.

Working with DEP geologist and flagging test pit locations for Hollow Tree Brook this week.

Livestaking for CSBI projects and native seeding scheduled. Deer fence and large-scale planting along Pantherkill also scheduled. CSBI outreach planning in progress to reach more property owners and grow interest in projects watershed-wide.

J. Wedmeyer mentioned NRCS partnering on AEM irrigation projects in lieu of report from NRCS staff.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Personnel Policy Review and Approval for 2026** - The board approved amendments to the Personnel Policy are as follows: 1. Up to 40 hours of annual leave can be donated to other employees annually; 2. Estimated Physical Capabilities Form for employees; and 3. Merit Raise Table based on professional certifications, college credits and advanced degrees, contingent on performance evaluations exceeding acceptable standards.

2026-3-1 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded to accept Personnel Policy as presented. All in favor.

- b) **Four Winds Farm Bid Review and Approval** - Sealed bids were received and reviewed prior to Board meeting. Bids presented for Four Winds Farm irrigation project: CM Excavation bid of \$68,000 and Pete Taliaferro bid of \$51,428.67.

2026-3-2 Nolan made the Motion, Wilklow seconded to accept Pete Taliaferro bid as presented. All in favor.

- c) **Procurement Policy Review and Approval** - No changes to Procurement Policy from last year.

2026-3-3 Kovacs made the Motion, Nolan seconded to accept Procurement Policy as presented. All in favor.

- d) **District Board Member Meeting/Events Attendance for 2026 Performance Measures** - Discussion of Board Members attending meetings such as SWCD Committee Meetings, Manager's meetings, etc. Scheduling District Law training meeting for Kovacs in April.
- e) **ARPA Funds to Reimburse CRF Round 7 Irrigation Project** - \$79,000 remaining in current contract with County, County has approved using these remaining funds to reimburse SWCD for supplementing Round 27 irrigation and fuel storage project costs and reimbursing mulch applications with Part C funds. Board approval needed to use Part C funds to reimburse farmers. SWCD will then invoice County for reimbursement and deposit back to Part C.

2026-3-4 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded to approve use of Part C funds to reimburse farmers as presented which will be reimbursed by ARPA funds from County. All in favor.

- f) **District Video Update Proposal** - Review of proposal from Bob Skinner of Skinner Photography for update of District promotional video, Board approval requested for \$1,350 for this purpose.

2026-3-5 Nolan made the Motion, Van Nostrand seconded to approve use of \$1,350 for promotional video update. All in favor.

- g) **Chevy Silverado Purchase and Chevy Colorado Auction** - SWCD intends to auction Colorado after speccing out Heavy Duty Silverado Half Ton with Three Quarter Ton brake package. This will be presented to the Board at a later date.
- h) **NYS Envirothon 2026 Annual Invoice** - Board approval needed for \$650 for 2026 NYS Envirothon registration.

2026-3-6 Nolan made the Motion, Van Nostrand and Kovacs seconded to approve use of \$650 for Envirothon registration. All in favor.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a) **Part C Funding for Farmland Protection Easement Appraisal** - Fino Farms is not pursuing easement at this time, surveyor has refunded \$3,500 to SWCD.
- b) **No Till Drill Rental for Columbia County Producer** - Discussed above.
- c) **Dinner for L. Tantillo to honor his 50 years of service for UCSWCD** - Discussion of celebratory dinner details, Board approval needed for up to \$1,200 for event.

2026-3-7 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded to approve use of \$1,200 for celebratory dinner. All in favor.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL – 2026-3-8 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded to approve January Special Meeting and February Board Meeting minutes as presented. All in favor.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ABSTRACTS – Abstracts have not been completed, will be presented at April meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING - The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd at 9:00 AM.

8. ADJOURNMENT

2026-3-9 A Motion was made by Delaune to Adjourn the Meeting at 10:00 AM, seconded by Nolan. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Sandor
District Technician